MARVEL
ULTIMATE
BLACK PANTHER
18
HILL | CASELLI | CURIEL
JUL. 2025 | RATED T+

This flesh won't embrace us for long, X'akal.
We are here to seed our kingdom. To claim what we have given. To force them to serve.
And we shall, Z'non.
My love, why do we speak their language? Why not our own?
Because this is their world.
When it is ours, we will speak in our melodies.
We wish to help you claim it.

Host of the Heavens.
Grant me, Matron Imala of the Vodu-Khan, audience.
I could kill you with a word.
Then it is nothing for you to listen to *my* words.
Please.
Enough from you--
Wait.
Rise.
And speak.

My gratitude.
My sect has worshipped your truth for generations. I am the last in a line that have silently awaited your return.
And that matters not to me.
You have a moment to make me care about your life.
Use it wisely, woman.
Wakanda has your element.
And I hold its secrets.

Nggghn!

There is... a body...that is meant to... hold you...

Then I will march into Wakanda and claim it.

You can't--
--because it has yet to be born.

Let me share the prophecy with you.
And give you purpose.

Nigeria.
You are secure, Defense Minister.
This masked man cannot find you here.
I'm not comforted by that.
"Then be comforted by the armed men stationed in the hallway outside."
Sit, Minister.
Have a drink of that bourbon you keep in your desk.
We'll both drink when I'm looking at this man's dead body.

He's here outside. Repeat, he's--
THOK
Unh!
Unit leader down!!!
KSHH
...

Hold steady.
All night if we must.
I will not kill you.
But if I have to go through you, you may not be the same when I am finished.
Cut him down.
BRATTABRATTA
BRATTA
BRATTA

Hold!
Where...?
BRATTA
BRATTA
BRATTA

KRAK
Urk!
CHOK
WHAM
Aagh!
KRAK

I bet you know how to get into that room.
Don't you?
That was gunfire.
The gunfire doesn't concern me.
What does?
The silence.

If both of you want to walk out of this room...
...one of you needs to tell me where this gateway is.
NOW.

Later.
KRAKOOM
A match would have been easier, Ororo.
I prefer self-reliance, King.
Did they tell you where the gateway is?
They did. Took some theatrical convincing.
And a few broken bones.

Plan?
A gateway means something wants to come through it. Something connected to vibranium.
So we destroy it.
And that creature using Adi's body?
We destroy him too.
You built your kingdom on material you did not understand.
If I were a Wakandan, I would not trust the Black Panther to protect me.
You *could* be a Wakandan and help strengthen that trust.

I do not nest well. I confuse roots and anchors.
So what future do you see for yourself?
You and Erik ripping your way through the world?
I want to free this continent of all that would shame her.
And then punish anyone who would try.
I am sorry for what you have been through, Ororo.
What... happened to me?
I didn't say anything happened to me.
You don't have to.
Anyone driven to create justice as you are...must have been denied it.
And for that, I am sorry.
Don't you dare pity me, King.

I don't pity you, Ororo.
You should not look at me like that.
Then turn from me.
Because I will do what pleases me.
Because unlike you, I am not bound by rules. Or legacy. Or title.
Or Erik.
It's going to rain.
RRRRMBL

Ororo. I cannot do this.
Then walk away in the rain.
But you won't do that.
Will you?
We are not in Wakanda.
And here you rule nothing.

SHAKOOOOM

T'Challa.
Soon you will face the greatest test.
Mother Bast...
And you must succeed.
Find me...

I'm not sure what I just saw--
Don't speak.
Listen.
I thought you were *infinitesimal*.
But I was mistaken.
Where is Ororo?
With us.
Where the Woman of Light is safe.
And you need to *listen*.
We will claim the kingdom you built from our gift.
You and the Woman of Light will serve the prophecy.

And to protect everyone you love--
--everything you love--
--and your child to come--
--you will help us destroy your precious Wakanda.
TO BE CONTINUED...